



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE**  
THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 3400  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
Capitol: (860) 240-8875  
Toll Free: (800) 842-1421  
E-mail: [Rob.Kane@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Rob.Kane@cga.ct.gov)  
Website: [www.SenatorKane.com](http://www.SenatorKane.com)

**DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER PRO TEMPORE AND  
CAUCUS CHAIRMAN FOR POLICY**

**RANKING MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and the distinguished members of the General Administration and Elections Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Joint Resolution No. 24, A RESOLUTION PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT OVERSEAS MILITARY VOTERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO WAIVE THE RIGHT OF SECRET VOTING IN ORDER TO VOTE BY ANY METHOD PERMITTED UNDER STATE LAW.

I am happy to come before you today to support a concept that I have had the pleasure to help evolve and move forward. Roughly one year ago, I came before this committee to support a bill that would have allowed Connecticut's military personnel stationed outside our state to access online voting over a secure website.

The fact is every American overseas faces hurdles trying to vote, and members of the armed services have an especially difficult time doing so. According to a survey by the Overseas Vote Foundation, more than one-fifth of military voters – 21.6% - did not receive their requested absentee ballots versus 17% for overseas civilians. Military voters were also more likely to report receiving their ballots too late than general overseas civilians – 4% to 2.6%. In order to address the unique voting challenges faced by our military personnel out of state we must think outside the box, and allowing them the option of voting online will ensure that their voice counts.

This Senate Joint Resolution is a key legal step in allowing this to happen. Our state's constitution guarantees the right to a "secret ballot", which can be ensured through paper balloting or the other various methods our towns and cities currently use. Voting online and having that data transmitted back here to Connecticut could violate that secrecy, so Senate Joint Resolution No. 24 would give our military voters out-of-state the option to waive that constitutional right to ensure that their vote is counted.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Kane".

Rob Kane  
Deputy Minority Leader Pro Tempore